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LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year 1972

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Leek Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
1972

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR J. TORR

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR T. HINE

Members:

Councillor J. W. Alcock
" H. J. Bourne
" F. G. Corbishley
" C. R. Critchlow
" J. Critchlow
" S. R. Critchlow
" G. Deaville
" H. Fawcett
" H. Hammond
" H. Harrison

Councillor C. R. Hewlett, J.P
" J. Kidd
" H. Mear
" A. Mellor
" Mrs. M. Robson
" J. Rushton
Mrs. G. Sigley
" F. W. Smith
" D. Sutton
" F. Tunnicliffe
" A. W. Williams
" S. G. Worthington

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

H. E. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.O., F.B.O.A., M.F.C.M

Chief Public Health Inspector:

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Food Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

T. SPENCER, Cert. R.S.I.

OFFICES

Public Health Department, 18 Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffs.
(Tel. Leek 2261)

Public Health Department,
18, Stockwell Street,
LEEK.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Leek Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1972 has been compiled in accordance with the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73.

The mid-1972 population was estimated by the Registrar General to be 13,120, a reduction of 140 compared with 1971.

The number of live births was 161 giving a birth rate of 12.3 per thousand of population. This birth rate can be compared with the birth rate for England and Wales as a whole by multiplying the local birth rate by a factor known as the comparability factor which for this district in 1972 was 1.13. The adjusted birth rate was 13.9 compared with 14.8 for England and Wales. Further details will be found on page 4.

The number of deaths was 121 giving an adjusted death rate of 10.9 (comparability factor 1.18) compared with 12.1 for England and Wales.

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system (excluding hypertensive disease) accounted for 59% of all deaths during the year, while malignant diseases accounted for 18% of the total. The largest single cause of death was due to heart disease in its various forms amounting to 33% of all deaths (28% of female deaths and 38% of all male deaths).

Not only are the causes of death important but the age at which death is brought about. In the Leek Rural District 31% of all deaths during 1972 occurred before 65 years. Of the males who died 34% occurred before 65 years compared with 28% of the females.

Of deaths in males before 65 years, cancer of the lung and ischaemic heart disease combined caused 62%. There is of course a known association between cigarette smoking and these two diseases. The corresponding figure for females was only 3%. There was no single major cause of death in females below 65 years, the causes of death were distributed more widely.

The number of confirmed cases of notifiable disease was 67 of which 62 were measles and the remainder comprised Scarlet Fever 4 and one case of respiratory tuberculosis.

It is pleasing to be able to report the absence of such diseases as diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis, almost certainly the result of parents obtaining protection for their children by vaccination, but the figures for measles suggest that vaccination against this disease is not being accepted as widely as it should. In the absence of contra-indications to the procedure, the evidence in favour of vaccination against measles is overwhelming.

Parents are advised to obtain protection for their children against diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis at the surgery of their family doctor or at county clinics free of charge. Vaccination is available when considered necessary against tuberculosis and against German Measles in the case of girls.

Milk sampling in the Leek Rural District is carried out regularly by the Staffordshire County Council and tested by the Public Health Laboratory for Brucellosis and Tuberculosis. No sample was found to be infected with either of these organisms during the year.

The tables on pages 12 and 13 of the report give details relating to Improvement and Standard Grant. It is satisfactory to report that the number of Grants approved compared favourably with those of previous years but once again the greatest proportion of grants approved were in respect of owner-occupied dwellings.

The District is supplied with mains water by the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board and particulars relating to the supply may be found on pages 10 and 11.

Tipping continued at the Fowlchurch Tip, Leek, following an agreement with the Leek Urban District Council and the former tipping site at Houghwood Bottom Farm, Stockton Brook was levelled, soiled over and seeded in the early part of the year.

Major changes in the administration and size of local government districts can be expected in April 1974, but if the imagination and enthusiasm of Members and Officials of the New District of which Leek Rural District will form a part match those of this present authority Leek Rural residents will be well served.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge once again the efforts and the work achieved by the staff and to record my thanks for the willing co-operation from other departments of the Council.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen may I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for your interest and support of the activities of the Health Department during the year under review.

H. E. WILSON
(Medical Officer of Health)

GENERAL STATISTICS

AREA	71,675 Acres
No. of Inhabited Houses	4,755
Estimated Population	13,120
No. of Persons per Acre	.184
Rateable Value	£381,637
Net Product of 1d. Rate For Year Ended 31/3/72	£3,577.66

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	81	73	154
Illegitimate	1	6	7
	82	79	161

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population — 12.3

Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.13) — 13.9 (14.8)

Still Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	2	2

Still birth rate per 1,000 total births — 12 (12)

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	61	60	121

Date rate per 1,000 of the population — 9.2

Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.18) — 10.9 (12.1)

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	1	1	2

Infant Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births — 12.0 (17.0)

(The rates for England and Wales are shown in parenthesis)

TUBERCULOSIS

	Respiratory Tuberculosis			Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total (Respiratory and Non-Respiratory)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Cases on Register 31/12/71	10	12	22	2	—	2	12	12	24
New cases Notified ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Inward Tranfers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	12	22	3	—	3	13	12	25
Cases removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cases on Register 31/12/72	10	12	22	3	—	3	13	12	25

NEW CASES NOTIFIED IN PREVIOUS YEARS

	Respiratory Tuberculosis			Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total (Respiratory and Non-Respiratory)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1972	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
1971	2	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	3
1970	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1969	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
1968	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1967	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966	—	2	2	—	1	1	—	3	3
1965	3	1	4	—	—	—	3	1	4
1964	3	2	5	1	1	2	4	3	7
1963	1	—	1	—	2	2	1	2	3
1962	1	—	1	1	1	2	2	1	3
1961	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
1960	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	2
1959	4	1	5	1	1	2	5	2	7
1958	5	3	8	—	—	—	5	3	8

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1972 in comparison with those of the three preceding years:

	1972	1971	1970	1969
Measles	62	11	118	6
Whooping Cough	—	4	1	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	2	1	3
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	—	3	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—
Acute Encephalitis (P.1)	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1
Anthrax	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis — Respiratory	—	2	—	1
Tuberculosis — Non-Respiratory ...	1	1	—	—
Total	67	20	125	14

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Tuberculosis	Dysentery	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid Fever	Infective Jaundice	Acute Encephalitis (PI)	Meningococcal Infection
Alstonefield											
Bagnall											
Bradnop	8										
Brown Edge	10			1							
Butterton											
Endon and Stanley	14										
Fawfieldhead											
Grindon											
Heathylee											
Heaton			1								
Hollinsclough											
Horton											
Ilam											
Leekfrith			1								
Longnor											
Longsdon			1								
Onecote											
Quarnford											
Rushton			1								
Sheen											
Tittesworth											
Warslow and Elkstones											
Wetton											
Total	62	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Months of Occurrence

January			1								
February											
March	3		2								
April	1		1								
May	47										
June	9										
July	1			1							
August											
September											
October	1										
November											
December											
Total	62	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notifiable Diseases — Age Groups

AGE GROUP	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarlet Fever		Acute Poliomyelitis		Dysentery		Food Poisoning		Respiratory Tuberculosis		Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis		Meningococcal Infection		Infective Jaundice		Paratyphoid Fever		Acute Encephalitis (PI)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	2	2																						
1 year	4	4																						
2 years	2																							
3 years	3	5																						
4 years	2	5																						
5— 9 years ...	15	17			2																			
10—14 years ...		1				1																		
15—24 years ...																								
25—44 years ...						1																		
45—64 years ...															1									
65 and over ...																								
Total (all ages)	28	34	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL — Male and Female	62		—		4		—		—		—		—		1		—		—		—		—	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN LEEK RURAL DISTRICT 1972

Causes of Death		Males	Females
B.5	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	—
B.6(1)	Late Effects of Respiratory TB	—	1
B.19(2)	Maligant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	—	—
B.19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—
B.19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	—	3
B.19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	—	—
B.19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Brunchus ...	7	1
B.19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	4
B.19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	—	—
B.19(10)	Leukaemia	—	—
B.19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	2	5
B.20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	—	1
B.21	Diabetes Mellitus	1	—
B.23	Anaemias	—	—
B.46(1)	Other Endocrine Etc. Diseases	—	—
B.24	Meningitis	—	—
B.25	Active Rheumatic Fever	—	1
B.46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	—	—
B.26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1
B.27	Hypertensive Disease	2	1
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	21	12
B.29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	4
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	16
B.46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	4	3
B.31	Influenza	—	—
B.32	Pneumonia	4	1
B.33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	—
B.33(2)	Asthma	—	1
B.46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	—	1
B.34	Peptic Ulcer	1	—
B.35	Appendicitis	—	—
B.46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	2	—
B.36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	—	—
B.37	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
B.46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System ...	—	1
B.38	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
B.46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	—	—
B.42	Congenital Anomalies	—	2
B.43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc. ...	1	—
B.44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	—	—
B.45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ...	—	—
BE.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
BE.48	All Other Accidents	2	—
BE.49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	—	—
BE.50	All other External Causes	—	—
Total — all causes		61	60

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Inspection of the Area — Summary of Visits

HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections	50
(b) Council House applicants	46
(c) Moveable dwellings	8
(d) Improvement Grant applicants	391
(e) Council Houses — Management	26
	521

GENERAL:

Inspection of premises for nuisances	2
Food premises	23
Slaughterhouses and knacker's yard	311
Drainage and Sewerage	660
Privy conversions	16
Water supplies — general	30
Samples of water taken	15
Offices, Shops and Railway premises	56
Refuse and nightsoil collection and disposal	332
Unauthorised Tipping	68
Infectious diseases	22
Rodent Control	66
Factories	5
Petroleum Stores	5
Miscellaneous	21
	2,153

NOTICES SERVED:

1.	Informal Notices	35
	Statutory Notices	1
2.	(a) Number of Nuisances Remedied	2
	(b) Number of defective dwellings rended fit following service of Statutory and Informal notices	40

WATER SUPPLIES

We are indebted to the Engineer, Manager and Clerk of the Staffordshire Potteries Water Board for the following information and comments relating to mains water supplies within the area.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS MADE TO MAINS SUPPLIES DURING THE YEAR AND TOTAL NUMBERS OF PROPERTIES NOW CONNECTED

SCHEME	NEW CONNECTIONS DURING YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS at 31/12/72
EASTERN PARISHES	9	707
HORTON, LONGSDON & RUDYARD	6	280
RUSHTON & HEATON	6	179
BRADNOP	3	60
TOTAL	24	1226

SAMPLES OF MAINS WATER TAKEN BY THE BOARD

Chemical Analysis:	Untreated water at source	11
	Treated water going into supply	128
Bacteriological Examination		300
Total for 1972		439

All waters leaving the treatment plant at Hulme End and in supply were 100% free from E.Coli.I organisms and, therefore, of high bacterial purity, suitable for domestic consumption. Chemical treatment, including chlorination, maintains this high standard. The water is moderately soft, of high organic quality and contains only a slight trace of iron and manganese. No lead has been found in the water supply and the fluoride content is less than 0.05 mg/1.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Source	Number of Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
WELL	2	2	—
SPRING	12	4	8
BOREHOLE	1	1	—
TOTAL	15	7	8

HOUSING

(a) NEW HOUSES ERECTED

By Private Enterprise	25
By Local Authority (Tittesworth Estate — Maisonettes) ...	4

(b) COUNCIL HOUSES

The four maisonettes at Tittesworth Estate were completed and tenanted in March.

The erection of seven one-bedroom bungalows on the Brown Edge (Sytch Road) site was commenced in August.

(c) COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICANTS

Fifty-five new applicants were registered and at the end of the year there were 73 'live' applications on the waiting list.

(d) HOUSING ACT 1969

Three applications for qualification certificates were received during the year. In all cases the standard amenities already existed and a certificate was issued in respect of one of the properties, the other two cases being in abeyance.

(e) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Particulars relating to improvement Grants are set out in tabular form below and overleaf.

A. DISCRETIONARY Applications	Owner/ Occupier	Tenanted
No. of applications received	40	6
" " " brought forward from 1971	2	—
" " " approved	35	4
" " " refused	2	—
" " " withdrawn	2	2
" " " in abeyance	3	—
Completions		
No. of dwellings improved	31	1
" " conversions of building to living accommodation	2	—

B. STANDARD Applications

	Owner/ Occupier	Tenanted
No. of applications received	30	3
" " " brought forward from 1971	4	—
" " " approved	23	2
" " " refused	1	—
" " " withdrawn	6	—
" " " in abeyance	4	1
Completions		
No. of dwellings improved	24	—

Amenities Provided

(a) Fixed Bath or Shower	10
(b) Wash Hand Basin	11
(c) Sink	4
(d) Hot Water Supply	11
(e) W.C.	22

Extended Grants

(a) Bathroom Additions	4
(b) Septic Tank Installed	10
(c) Piped Water Installed	1

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS APPROVED IN PREVIOUS YEARS

	Discretionary		Standard	
	No.	Value	No.	Value
1972	39	£34,295	25	£5,682
1971	29	21,821	29	6,705
1970	23	21,816	28	7,595
1969	5	2,366	24	5,877
1968	9	3,395	25	6,353
1967	12	4,275	37	9,591
1966	13	4,541	26	6,113
1965	29	9,655	30	5,897
1964	30	8,773	9	1,316
1963	23	7,311	17	1,050
	212	£118,248	250	£56,179

(a) **Brucellosis**

SUMMARY OF SAMPLES OF UNTREATED MILK TAKEN FOR BRUCELLA ABORTUS

	Ring Test		Culture		Biological	
	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.
Retail Street Milks	195	—	—	—	—	—
Special Samples for Brucella Abortus only taken direct at Farm	—	—	—	—	—	—
School Milks	6	—	—	—	—	—
School Canteen Milks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hospitals, etc. Milks	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	201	—	—	—	—	—

(b) **The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963**

There are no egg pasteurisation plants within the district.

(c) **Food Hygiene**

The majority of the shops in the district are of the small family type business and all are generally well maintained. No proceedings were taken during the year in respect of these or other catering establishments within the district.

(d) **Poultry Inspection**

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

(e) **Slaughterhouses and Knacker's Yards**

Three premises are licensed as Slaughterhouses and one as a Knacker's Yard. Particulars as to animals slaughtered, carcases inspected and meat condemned are set out in the table on the following page.

(f) **Ice Cream**

Seventy-one premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. No premises are registered for manufacture.

(g) **Food Poisoning Outbreaks**

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	371	1	1383	385	—
Number inspected	371	1	1383	385	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	—	2	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.77	—	.14	1.29	—
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tubculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED

Weight of Meat condemned due to:—

(a) Tuberculosis	— lb.
(b) Other diseases or conditions	238 lb.
	238 lb.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Canned Foods	76 lb.
Frozen Foods	90 lb.
Other Foods	14 lb.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

REGISTERED PREMISES

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
OFFICES	—	5	5
RETAIL SHOPS	—	10	10
WHOLESALE, SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	—	—	—
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, CANTEENS	—	19	19
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	34	34

ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES

CLASS OF WORK-PLACE	NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED
OFFICES	16
RETAIL SHOPS	29
WHOLESALE DEPARTMENTS, WAREHOUSES	—
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	128
CANTEENS	—
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	—
TOTAL	173 (70 Males) (103 Females)

FACTORIES ACT 1961

NUMBER OF FACTORIES ON REGISTER:—	
Mechanical	10
Non-Mechanical	1
	11
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE	5

PETROLEUM ACTS

Twenty-five licences were issued for the bulk storage of 63,100 gallons of petroleum spirit.

H. E. WILSON
Medical Officer of Health

D. K. PEDLEY
Chief Public Health Inspector

READINGS TAKEN AT HULME END PUMPING STATION

(Information supplied by courtesy of the Staffs. Potteries Water Board)

	inches
JANUARY	5.17
FEBRUARY	3.42
MARCH	5.68
APRIL	4.10
MAY	4.32
JUNE	1.09
JULY	3.11
AUGUST	1.82
SEPTEMBER	1.50
OCTOBER	1.81
NOVEMBER	4.43
DECEMBER	3.67
Total rainfall for year	43.36

PREVIOUS YEARS

	inches
1971	35.09
1970	45.09
1969	39.60
1968	41.80
1967	40.80
1966	54.68
1965	50.56
1964	33.38

HILL BROTHERS
(Leek) Ltd.